

PROFILE OF A SUCCESSFUL ARTS SPECIALIST

The success of arts education programs is directly correlated with the quality of the teaching artist or arts specialist affiliated with them. **art works for kids!** has developed the following indicators of excellence for arts teachers, as a result of their thirteen years of experience in elementary arts education.

Qualities to Consider when Hiring an Arts Specialist

School-based teaching artists and arts specialists must be qualified to teach the art form; have knowledge of how children learn; be willing to partner with classroom teacher(s) in a side-by-side teaching model to integrate curriculum; and be willing to interface with the school community.

Artistic Skills:

- understand the creative process in the art form and have a proven track record of professional activity as an artist
- understand how the arts are used across various cultures and history, as well as styles and contexts of the arts
- are self-directed, life-long learners
- have an affinity for critical thinking regarding the meaning and value of the arts

Teaching Capacity:

- are competent educators
- have a secure grasp of effective pedagogical practice grounded in sound teaching philosophy and carefully considered curricular and instructional priorities
- have knowledge of a broad array of arts teaching philosophies, strategies and materials
- are effective in interpersonal and communicative skills, especially the ability to connect with students and teachers
- have the ability to teach the arts in a way that teaches artistic experiences
- have a willingness to collaborate with classroom teachers to plan and deliver arts education

Commitment:

- are thoughtful and capable artists and teachers
- care deeply about the students with whom they interact
- seek to serve and lead within their profession
- are capable organizers and possibly administrators
- are passionate advocates for arts education
- are resourceful and creative in addressing issues in arts education
- are individuals with integrity, introspection, personal responsibility, good humor, and love for humanity
- are open and receptive with a propensity for life-long investigation and learning
- have a sense of commitment and willingness to serve arts education in the school and community